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Лингвострановедение: фильмы в оригинале как часть культуры англоязычных стран

Учебное пособие



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Данное учебное пособие является вспомогательным материалом к курсу лингвострановедения Великобритании и США, который обычно читается студентам вузов, чьей специализацией является английский язык. В пособии представлены задания для обсуждения документальных и художественных британских и американских фильмов, среди которых такие знаменитые картины, как «Королева» (The Queen), «Железная леди» (The Iron Lady), «Король говорит» (The King's Speech), «Фрост против Никсона» (Frost/Nixon) «Форрест Гамп» (Forrest Gump). Цель пособия — развитие навыков восприятия устной речи при просмотре фильмов в оригинале, а также изучение истории, политики и культуры англоязычных стран.

Учебное пособие предназначено для студентов гуманитарных факультетов, профессионально изучающих английский язык.

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The Queen at 80 (2006) Documentary

Written and narrated by Andrew Marr (BBC)

DISCUSSION

PART I

Comment on the following statements by the Queen and about the Queen

1. “It’s inevitable that I should seem a rather remote figure to many of you, a successor to the kings and queens of history...Someone whose face may be familiar in newspapers and films but who never really touches your personal lives.” — Queen Elizabeth II
2. “She’s such a great governor of this country, as far as I’m concerned.” — Barbara Windsor
3. “She has worked out what she thinks the monarch should be and can be in today’s world.” — Tony Blair
4. “She’s much closer to the pulse of the nation than many people realise.” — Sir John Major
5. “To be a mum, a wife, and a queen all at the same time, she’s an incredible woman.” — Sharon Osborne
6. “I view her activities and achievements with great respect.” — Nelson Mandela

The Queen in her youth

1. Why is the Royal Family compared to celebrities?
2. When and why did the Queen announce that she was “a human sacrifice to the British state”?
3. What does the motto “I serve” mean?
4. Where did the Queen’s sense of duty and serious-mindedness come from?
5. What did the Queen’s father, King George VI, personify? Which role did he play in her life?

Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles

1. What was the Queen's attitude to divorce? Did it change when her son married Camilla Parker Bowles?
2. How was the wedding of Prince Charles and Camilla celebrated and how did the public react to it?
3. How did the Royal Family's second private motto "Compromise" refer to the wedding of Prince Charles and Camilla?
4. Why was this marriage called controversial and how did it shape the modern monarchy?

Members of the Royal Family

1. Why did King Edward VIII abdicate and how did it affect the Royal Family?
2. Which impact did the early death of King George VI make on everyone?
3. How did the Queen look upon the coronation and why did this event transfix the country?
4. How did the Queen treat Wallis Simpson?
5. Which years were regarded as the zenith of the modern monarchy?
6. What was so special about the Queen Mother?
7. Why did Princess Margaret personify celebrity culture?

The Golden Jubilee

1. How did various musicians performing at the Queen's Golden Jubilee concert describe the event?
2. Why did the Golden Jubilee unite the older generation with the new one?

The Queen and her duties

1. How does the Queen deal with her state papers?
2. What are the hidden powers of the Queen?
3. Why does Tony Blair think that the monarchy is more secure now?

Royal Visits

1. Which country has the Queen visited most often?

2. What is the point of Royal Visits?
3. Which role did the royal ship Britannia play in the Queen's life?
4. Why does the Queen never cancel anything?
5. What is the motto of the Order of the Garter and what is the story behind it?

PART 2

Comment on the following statements by the Queen and about the Queen

1. "I cannot lead you into battle, I cannot give you laws or administer justice, but I can do something else... I can give you my heart and my devotion to these old islands and to all the peoples of our brotherhood of nations." — Queen Elizabeth II
2. "She is a guardian of the Commonwealth." — Nelson Mandela
3. "She is a very strong woman, and that's seen her through an awful lot." — Nancy Reagan
4. "She's taken the monarchy to a place where, no matter what happens in the future, I personally think the monarchy will be very secure." — Tony Blair

The Queen and her Prime Ministers

1. Why is Buckingham Palace referred to as the bureaucratic heart of the working monarchy?
2. How many Prime Ministers have there been in Britain so far?
3. What were the Queen's relations with her first Prime Minister Winston Churchill?
4. Which protocol do Prime Ministers have to follow during their weekly audiences with the Queen?
5. Why is the visit to the Queen humorously compared to a weekly visit to a counsellor or a psychiatrist?
6. Why can the Prime Minister be totally frank with the Queen?
7. Does the Queen ever give any clues as to her political preference?
8. What does Tony Blair mean by saying that the Queen is able "to sense the small 'p' politics"?

The Reagans; the Royal Family and the Navy

1. What were the Queen's relations with the Reagans?
2. How is the Royal Family connected with the Navy?
3. How was the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar celebrated on 28 June, 2005?
4. When and where did the Queen meet her husband for the first time? What did their wedding symbolise?

Windsor Castle

1. Which disaster struck Windsor Castle in 1992 and how was the financial question of its restoration solved?
2. What did the Queen mean by saying that "1992 is not the year I shall look back upon with undiluted pleasure"?

The Queen and Princess Diana

1. Why was there a confrontation between Princess Diana and the rest of the Royal Family?
2. How did Diana declare before the world her own victimhood?
3. Why was Diana installed by the television and the papers as "the rebel monarch of Britain's new therapy culture"?
4. In what way was Diana different from the Queen?
5. What did the break-up of Diana's 11-year marriage to Charles symbolise?
6. Why is the wedding of Charles and Diana considered to be the most embarrassing event in all royal history?
7. Why were the 4 years before the divorce metaphorically described as "watching a car crash in slow motion"?
8. How did Britain react to Diana's death?
9. Why was the Royal Family unprepared to express their grief publicly?
10. How did the Queen's arrival in London change the general atmosphere in the crowd?
11. What was the key point of the speech the Queen made on the death of Princess Diana? Why did she find it so difficult to address her people on this occasion?
12. Does the Queen do anything to be popular?
13. How did the Queen pay her respect to Diana during the funeral procession?

14. Which harsh lesson did the Royal Family learn that week?

World War II

1. Which event took place at Buckingham Palace on 10 July, 2005?
2. How did the Royal Family get through World War II?
3. What did the Queen do during the war?

Social Events

1. What happens at Garden Parties?
2. Which event takes place at the Palace of Holyroodhouse?
3. What do children think of the Queen?
4. Why is the Queen considered a diplomat-in-chief?
5. What was the main purpose of the Royal Visit to Malta in 2005?
6. How does the Queen keep the Commonwealth together?

The Queen and Prince Philip

1. What was Prince Philip's career in the Navy?
2. Why has it always been difficult for Prince Philip to stand one pace behind his wife?
3. Why did the Queen and her husband spend their happiest days on Malta?

The Queen and her achievements

1. How do Tony Blair's words characterise the Queen: "She has worked out what she thinks the monarch should be and can be in today's world. And she knows that one part of that is being in touch with people and changing with the times. But there's a bit of her that is very strongly unchanging... This is the mystery and the majesty of the monarchy and that's the way it's going to stay"?
2. Why has the survival of the monarchy been the Queen's achievement?

Active Vocabulary

- to work relentlessly
- a noble motto

- to devote one's life to sth.
- a guardian of the Commonwealth
- sense of duty
- serious-mindedness
- to mingle with the public
- to be brought up
- to personify the spirit of the British people
- to make a deep impression on sb.
- to be composed
- to be conscious of doing sth.
- to raise money for charity
- to be a great privilege to sb.
- to regard sb. with suspicion
- successor to the throne
- adverse publicity
- to denounce divorce
- to be tolerant to sth.
- to marry in a civil service
- controversial marriage
- to shape the modern monarchy
- to abdicate
- to cause a political crisis
- to break one's duty
- to be unforgivable
- to impose stress and strain on sb.
- to transfix the country
- post-war period
- to usher in a new way of life
- to be totally committed
- to be consecrated
- to take one's vows
- to be a lavish burden on one's shoulders
- a sense of compassion for sb.
- to shrewdly keep oneself out of politics
- the age of deference
- affection for sth.
- glamorous sister

- the highlight of one's career
- to maintain a restless schedule
- to accumulate experience and knowledge
- to keep on top of the work
- to be in a secure position
- to symbolise diversity of the country
- to anticipate every step
- to be decommissioned
- to read people very well
- the ups and downs of the state
- senior naval officer
- Lord High Admiral
- spectacular event
- large-scale operation
- to escort the Royal Family
- to reach unprecedented heights of recrimination
- to look battered
- to pay income tax
- to pay for the restoration of the castle
- to administer justice
- to see sb. through sth.
- weekly audiences
- to be totally frank with sb.
- confrontation between sb. and sb.
- to declare before the world one's own victimhood
- rebel monarch
- embarrassing event
- to express one's grief publicly
- to pay one's respect to sb.
- to learn a harsh lesson
- the outbreak of the war
- to be in the forces
- to handle oneself well
- glittering social occasion
- to contribute to national life
- investiture
- to show astonishing energy

- to carry out one's functions
- to be dominated by the United States
- to stand for tolerance and equality
- to engage with people
- to lose track of sth.
- to keep the Commonwealth together
- to socialise with others
- hectic schedule
- to find fault with sb.
- to show no signs of diminishment
- to be in touch with people
- tough lady
- to accept the good and the bad

The Queen (2006)

Director: Stephen Frears

Stars: Helen Mirren, Michael Sheen

DISCUSSION

Historical background

1. When and how did Tony Blair become prime minister?
2. Who is Robin Janvrin?
3. Who is Alastair Campbell?
4. How did Princess Diana die?
5. What was public reaction to Princess Diana's death?
6. Why was Diana called the people's princess?

Political aspects and etiquette

1. Can the Queen vote? Who cannot vote in a UK parliamentary election?
2. Which rules of court etiquette are pointed out in the film?
3. How is the first meeting between the newly elected prime minister and the queen arranged? Which mistake does Tony Blair make in the film during this process?
4. Why does Tony Blair have to make a speech to pay tribute to Princess Diana?
5. What is the discussion in the film concerning the flag at Buckingham Palace?
6. What does Tony Blair mean by saying that "this country can't be a republic"?
7. In what connection is Tay Bridge mentioned in the film?

Psychological aspects

1. What is the meaning of the quotation from "Henry IV" by Shakespeare at the beginning of the film: "Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown"?
2. How do different members of the royal family react to the tragic death of Princess Diana? Why does Princess Margaret, the Queen's sister, refer to Diana as being "even more annoying dead than alive"?
3. Why is the Queen against the public funeral?

4. What is Prince Philip's attitude towards Diana? What does he mean by saying that she "was a nice girl, then...?"
5. How is Prince Charles presented in the film?
6. What does Prince Charles mean by saying that "the two Dianas, the public's and ours, bear no relation to one another at all"?
7. How does Tony Blair try to influence the Queen and why does he do that?
8. What does the stag symbolise in the film?
9. How does the Queen feel when she realises she is hated by most of her people?
10. How does the Queen manage to hold her head high in the end?

Comment on the following scenes in the film:

00:01:00

- *The Queen:* Have you voted yet, Mr Crawford?
- *Artist:* Yes, Ma'am. I was there when they opened, first in line, at 7 o'clock. I don't mind telling you it wasn't for Mr Blair.
- *The Queen:* You're not a moderniser then?
- *Artist:* Certainly not. We're in danger of losing too much that is good about this country as it is.
- *The Queen:* I envy you being able to vote. Not the actual ticking of the box although it would be nice to experience that once. But the sheer joy of being partial.
- *Artist:* Yes. Of course one forgets that as Sovereign, you're not entitled to vote.
- *The Queen:* No.
- *Artist:* Still, you won't catch me feeling sorry for you. You might not be allowed to vote, Ma'am, but it is your government.
- *The Queen:* Yes. I suppose that is some consolation.

00:03:58

- *The Queen:* He's a hard one to read, isn't he?
- *Robin Janvrin:* Yes. On the one hand, his background is quite establishment, father a conservative, educated at Fettes, where he was tutored by the same man as the Prince of Wales.
- *The Queen:* Well, we'll try not to hold that against him.
- *Robin Janvrin:* On the other, his manifesto promises the most radical modernisation and shake up of the constitution in 300 years.

- *The Queen*: Oh, do you mean he is going to try and modernise us?
- *Robin Janvrin*: I wouldn't let it past him. He's married to a woman with known anti-monarchist sympathies. You may remember her curtsy, the first time you met. It could best be described as... shallow.
- *The Queen*: I don't measure the depth of a curtsy, Robin. I leave that to my sister.
- *Robin Janvrin*: The atmosphere at Downing Street is expected to be very informal. Everyone on first name terms at the Prime Minister's insistence.
- *The Queen*: What, as in call me Tony?
- *Robin Janvrin*: Yes, Ma'am.
- *The Queen*: Oh, I don't like that. Could we send him a protocol sheet?

00:05:31

- *Equerry*: When we reach the audience room, I will knock. We will not wait to be called, we shall go straight inside. Standing by the door, we bow. From the neck. I will introduce you. The Queen will extend her hand, you go to her, bow again, then shake her hand. A couple of other things. It's "ma'am" as in "ham", not "ma'am" as in "farm." And when you're in the presence, at no point must you show your back.
- *Tony Blair*: The presence?
- *Equerry*: Yes, sir. That's what it is called, when you're in Her Majesty's company.

00:06:52

- *The Queen*: Have they shown you how to start a nuclear war yet?
- *Tony Blair*: Ah, no...
- *The Queen*: Oh, first thing we do, apparently. Then we take away your passport, and spend the rest of the time sending you around the world.

00:19:55

- *Charles Spencer*: This is not the time for incriminations, but for sadness however I would say that I always believed the press would kill her in the end but not even I could imagine they'll take such a direct hand in her death as it seems to be the case. It would appear that every proprietor and editor of every publication that has paid for intrusive and exploitative photographs of her has blood on his hands today.
- *Alastair Campbell*: Not the press, mate. You got the wrong villain.

- *Tony Blair*: Got to go...
- *Alastair Campbell*: You're about to speak to the Queen?
- *Tony Blair*: Yeah...
- *Alastair Campbell*: Ask her if she greased the breaks.

00:23:05

- *Tony Blair*: Her instinct is to do nothing. Say nothing and give her a private funeral.
- *Cherie Blair*: Are you surprised? She hated her guts.
- *Tony Blair*: Well, I think it's a mistake. They screwed up her life, let's hope they don't screw up her death.

00:26:43

- *Lord Airlie*: Good afternoon, Prime Minister. It's my job to organise all the ceremonial events. There is simply no precedent for the funeral of an ex-HRH.
- *Tony Blair*: Perhaps we shall plan for any contingency.
- *Lord Airlie*: Yes, I propose a meeting at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning at Buckingham Palace. Officials from all three Palaces, representatives from the Spencer family, the emergency services. Would you send some of your people?
- *Tony Blair*: Absolutely, of course. Precedent!? Where do they find these people?

00:33:00

- *The Queen*: Do you think it's wise for the boys to go stalking so soon?
- *Prince Philip*: Anything that gets them into the fresh air, is a good thing.
- *The Queen*: Maybe they shouldn't take their guns? I mean, if a photographer were to see them, it might send out the wrong signal?
- *Prince Philip*: If there is a photographer out there, he could be the first kill of the day.

00:37:36

- *Tony Blair*: Why is Charles doing this?
- *Aide 1*: What?
- *Tony Blair*: Creeping up to me like this. Banging on about being modern. He did it at the airport, when he asked me 'to deal' with his mother.

- *Aide 2*: Because he knows that if the Queen continues to get it wrong over Diana then the royals become public enemy number one. And he's terrified of being shot, apparently.
- *Tony Blair*: Who, Charles?
- *Aide 1*: His people have already been on to us to ask for extra protection.
- *Aide 2*: He probably thinks that if he seems to be on our side then that would leave the Queen in the firing line.
- *Tony Blair*: What? So it's okay for his mother to take the bullet, and not him? What a family!

00:40:56

- *The interviewer*: Do you think you'll ever be Queen?
- *Princess Diana*: No I don't, no.
- *The interviewer*: Why do you think that?
- *Princess Diana*: I like to be a Queen of people's hearts, in people's hearts. But I don't see myself as being Queen of this country. I don't think many people would want me to be Queen. Actually, when I say many people, I mean the establishment that I married into. Because they've decided that I'm a non-starter.

00:41:54

- *The Queen*: Maybe he's got a point, maybe we are partly to blame.
- *Prince Philip*: Oh, I can't watch this.
- *The Queen*: No, no wait, please, no, leave it! We encouraged the match. We signed off on it, both of us. You were very enthusiastic, remember?
- *Prince Philip*: She was a nice girl, then. And I was sure he'd give the other one up or at least make sure his wife toed the line. Isn't that what everyone does?
- *The Queen*: Is it?
- *Princess Diana*: Well, there were three of us, in this marriage, so it was a bit crowded.

00:45:05

- *The Queen*: Robin had a call from the Prime Minister who expressed his concern.
- *Prince Philip*: About what?

- *The Queen*: About the flag above Buckingham Palace. He thinks it should be flying at half-mast.
- *Prince Philip*: I hope Robin told him there isn't a flag above Buckingham Palace. There's the Royal Standard, which flies for one reason only — to denote the presence of the monarch. Since you're here, the flag pole is bare, which is as it should be.
- *Prince Charles*: Isn't it possible, that for some people the Royal Standard is just a flag. And that the flag pole being bare, sends out the wrong signal.
- *The Queen*: No, that's not the point.
- *Prince Philip*: The point is, it's more than 400 years old. It hasn't been lowered for anyone.
- *Queen Mother*: Your grandfather didn't get the flag at half mast, when he died. If your mother died tomorrow, she wouldn't either.
- *Prince Charles*: Yes, granny. But sometimes, in a situation like this, one has to be flexible. It is just a flag.
- *The Queen*: "What about the Union Jack?" was Mr Blair's next suggestion.
- *Queen Mother*: For heavens sake?
- *Prince Philip*: The next thing he'll be suggesting you change your name to Hilda and mine to Hector. Who does he think he's talking to? You're the Sovereign, the Head of State, you don't get dictated to. You've conceded the idea of a public funeral, you've opened up the parks, that's enough.
- *The Queen*: Shh... the boys..
- *Prince Philip*: You wait. In 48 hours, this will all have calmed down.

00:47:01

- *Prince Charles*: Where once it seemed comforting. For the first time my parents can see what it's been like for me all these years being up against her popularity. But they're still making the mistake of thinking that the Diana they knew from living and dealing with her will eventually be the one seen by the public. But it won't! The two Dianas, the public's and ours, bear no relation to one another at all!

00:48:14

- *TV commentator*: We have a wonderful new Prime Minister in England, Tony Blair, a compassionate young man, who after 18 years of establishment Tory rule is such a breath of fresh air, and I feel he will do something about this in England.
- *Cherie Blair*: Do you think this will be the first stirrings of...

- *Tony Blair*: Of what?
- *Cherie Blair*: I don't know. Something more interesting. Maybe this time people will finally have seen them for what they actually are.
- *Tony Blair*: Which is?
- *Cherie Blair*: A bunch of freeloading emotionally retarded nutters!
- *Tony Blair*: That's just absurd.
- *Cherie Blair*: Why? They have a ludicrous cocoon of privilege and wealth. And they don't pay tax.
- *Tony Blair*: Yes they do.
- *Cherie Blair*: Not on all their income. The Queen alone costs us, what? 30, 40 million a year?
- *Tony Blair*: Look, if you wanna have a serious conversation...
- *Cherie Blair*: I do.
- *Tony Blair*: About the constitution.
- *Cherie Blair*: We don't have one.
- *Tony Blair*: About ways in which we as a government could phase out hereditary privileges, then fine.
- *Cherie Blair*: If you're gonna leave will you take the plates?
- *Tony Blair*: But, you know, spare me the whole off with their heads thing.
- *Cherie Blair*: Why?
- *Tony Blair*: Because it insults your intelligence. It's unimaginable this country being a republic. Certainly in her lifetime.
- *Cherie Blair*: Why?
- *Tony Blair*: Because no one would wear it. No one wants it. It's just daft.
- *Cherie Blair*: It's not a mother thing, is it?
- *Tony Blair*: What?
- *Cherie Blair*: Well, if she were alive now your mother would be exactly the same age. I mean you always say how stoical she was, old-fashioned, uncomplained, lived through the war. Oh, come on who does that sound like?
- *Tony Blair*: I'm gonna go do the washing-up.

00:51:38

- *Tony Blair*: Good morning, Your Majesty. Sorry to disturb but I was just wondering whether you'd seen any of today's papers?
- *The Queen*: We've managed to look at one or two...
- *Tony Blair*: In which case my next question would be whether you felt some kind of response might be necessary?

- *The Queen*: No. I believe a few overeager editors are doing their best to sell newspapers and it would be a mistake to dance to their tune.
- *Tony Blair*: Under normal circumstances I would agree. But, well, my advice is... I've been taking the temperature among people on the streets. And, well, the information I'm getting is that the mood is quite delicate.
- *The Queen*: So, what would you suggest, Prime Minister? Some kind of a statement?
- *Tony Blair*: No, Ma'am. I believe that the moment for statements, has passed. I would suggest flying the flag at half-mast above Buckingham Palace and coming down to London, at the earliest opportunity. It would be a great comfort to your people and would help them with their grief.
- *The Queen*: Their grief? If you imagine I am going to drop everything and come down to London, before I attend to my grandchildren who have just lost their mother, then you're mistaken! I doubt there is anyone who knows the British people more than I do, Mr Blair, nor who has greater faith in their wisdom and judgement. And it is my belief they will any moment reject this mood, which is being stirred up by the press, in favour of a period of restrained grief and sober private mourning. That's the way we do things in this country, quietly, with dignity. That's what the rest of the world has always admired us for.
- *Tony Blair*: If that's your decision, Ma'am, then of course, the government will support it. Let's keep in touch.
- *The Queen*: Yes. Let's.

01:03:12

- *Prince Philip*: It reminds me of one of those films. A few of us in a fort, hordes of Zulus outside. So it's vital you hold firm. Stick to your guns. You wait. They will come to their senses soon, they have to.

01:08:10

- *Queen Mother*: You must show your strength, reassert your authority. You sit on the most powerful throne in Europe. Head of an unbroken line that goes back more than a thousand years. Do you think any of your predecessors would have dropped everything and gone up to London because a bunch of hysterics carrying candles, needed help with their grief? As for that silly Mr Blair with his Cheshire Cat grin...

01:17:50

- *Cherie Blair*: Well, at least the old bat has finally agreed to visit Diana's coffin.
- *Tony Blair*: When you get it wrong, you really get it wrong. That woman has given her whole life in service to her people. 50 years doing the job, she never wanted. A job she watched kill her father. She's executed it with honour, dignity, and as far as I could tell without a single blemish, and now we're all baying for her blood. All because she's struggling to lead the world in mourning for someone who threw everything she offered back in her face and who for the last few years seemed committed 24/7 to destroying everything she holds most dear.

01:20:27

- *The Queen (on TV)*: We have all felt these emotions in these last few days. So what I say to you now, as your Queen and as a grandmother, I say from my heart...
- *Cherie Blair*: Heart...What heart? She doesn't mean a word of this.
- *Tony Blair*: That's not the point. What she's doing is extraordinary. That's how to survive.
- *Cherie Blair*: Listen to you! A week ago you were the great moderniser making speeches about the people's Princess. Now you've gone weak at the knees. You know, I don't know why I'm so surprised. At the end of the day, all Labour Prime Ministers go ga-ga for the Queen.

01:25:23

- *Charles Spenser*: Diana was the very essence of compassion, of duty, of style, of beauty. A very British girl who transcended nationality. Someone with a natural nobility who was classless, and who proved in the last year that she needed no royal title to continue to generate a particular brand of magic. I would like to end by thanking God for the small mercies he's shown us at this dreadful time for taking Diana at her most beautiful and radiant. And when she had joy, in her private life. Above all, we give thanks for the life of a woman I'm so proud to be able to call my sister. The unique, the complex, the extraordinary, and irreplaceable, Diana whose beauty, both internal and external, will never be extinguished from our minds.

01:27:12

- *Cherie Blair*: So, off to see your girlfriend?
- *Tony Blair*: Now, now.
- *Cherie Blair*: You know, I hope she shows you some respect this time. It's quite a debt of gratitude, she owes you, Mr Saviour of the Monarchy.
- *Tony Blair*: I doubt she'll see it that way.

01:29:20

- *The Queen*: I don't think I shall ever understand, what happened this summer.
- *Tony Blair*: Well, the circumstances were exceptional, Ma'am, and in the end you showed great personal strength, courage, and humility.
- *The Queen*: You're confusing humility with humiliation.
- *Tony Blair*: That's not true.
- *The Queen*: You didn't read the cards on the flowers outside the Palace that Friday.
- *Tony Blair*: I actually think history will show it was a good week for you.
- *The Queen*: And an even better one for you, Mr Blair.
- *Tony Blair*: But there are 52 weeks in the year, Ma'am, and 2500 in the time since you've been Queen. And when people come to assess your legacy they won't remember those few days.
- *The Queen*: Oh, really? You don't think what affection people once had for this institution has been diminished?
- *Tony Blair*: No, not at all. You're more respected now, than ever.
- *The Queen*: I gather some of your closest advisers were less fulsome in their support.
- *Tony Blair*: One or two, but as a leader, I could never have added my voice to that chorus.
- *The Queen*: Because you saw those headlines, and you thought one day that might happen to me. And it will, Mr Blair. Quite suddenly, and without warning.

01:31:45

- *The Queen*: Nowadays people want glamour, and tears, the grand performance. I'm not very good at that, I never have been. I prefer to keep my feelings to myself. And foolishly I believed that was what people wanted from their Queen: not to make a fuss, nor wear one's heart on one's sleeve, duty first, self second. That's how I was brought up, that's all I've ever known.

- *Tony Blair*: You were so young when you became Queen.
- *The Queen*: Yes, yes, a girl. But I can see that the world has changed, and one must modernise.
- *Tony Blair*: Well, perhaps that's where I can help.
- *The Queen*: Don't get ahead of yourself, Prime Minister, and remember I am the one supposed to be advising you.

Active Vocabulary

- to be entitled to vote
- to win by a landslide
- to hold that against sb.
- to promise the most radical modernisation and shake up of the constitution
- to let it pass sb.
- shallow curtsy
- to be on first name terms
- to be in the presence
- to be embroiled in controversy
- to attack sb. for extravagance
- to kick the bucket
- to announced sb.'s death
- to make a statement
- to grease the breaks
- to make an appearance
- to give a private/public funeral
- to pay tribute to sb.'s life and achievements
- to share in the grief
- fairground attraction
- to hated sb.'s guts
- to screw up sb.'s life
- to keep faith with sb.
- to be no precedent for sth.
- to go stalking
- to set an ambitious course to modernise the country
- to judge the mood of the country
- to rehearse

- to supervise plans
- to creep up to sb.
- to leave sb. in the firing line
- to take the bullet
- to expose sb. to the media
- to be married into the establishment
- non-starter
- to encourage the match
- to toe the line
- a disgrace on sb.
- to fly a flag at half-mast
- to denote the presence of the monarch
- to send out the wrong signal
- to be flexible
- to bear no relation to one another
- to stand up to the establishment
- detached, elitist people
- freeloading emotionally retarded nutters
- to dance to sb.'s tune
- to have faith in sb.'s wisdom and judgement
- to be stirred up by the press
- to do things with dignity
- to admire sb. for sth.
- to bully sb.
- to come to one's senses
- national grief
- to damage the monarchy
- to abolish the monarchy all together
- to make a statement via live television
- to avert disaster
- to deliver a televised address
- to show remorse
- to execute sth. with honour, dignity
- to get it wrong
- to bay for blood
- a sense of loss
- to go gaga for sb.

- to generate a particular brand of magic
- to be the essence of compassion, of duty
- to transcend nationality
- external/internal beauty
- to owe sb. a debt of gratitude
- to be manhandled
- to confuse humility with humiliation
- to get rid of sb.
- to make a fuss
- to wear one's heart on one's sleeve

The Iron Lady (2011)

Director: Phyllida Lloyd

Stars: Meryl Streep, Jim Broadbent

DISCUSSION

General questions

1. Why did Margaret Thatcher get the nickname the Iron Lady? When and where was it used first?
2. Does the film reveal all the features of being the Iron Lady?
3. What is Thatcherism?
4. How can you comment on the way Margaret Thatcher is described in the film: *“Although rarely seen in public, the longest serving Prime Minister of the twentieth century, remains a controversial figure. Almost lovingly dubbed by the Soviets ‘The Iron Lady’, she’s also credited, with her friend Ronald Reagan, with a decisive role in the ending of the Cold War. Her supporters claim she transformed the British economy and reversed the country’s post-war decline. Her detractors blame her savage public spending cuts and sweeping privatization...”*?
5. Can Margaret Thatcher be called “the woman who changed the face of history”?
6. What kind of disease is dementia? How do flashbacks that Margaret Thatcher constantly experiences help to understand her better as a politician and as a woman?

Young years and first steps in politics (1943-1970)

1. What did Margaret Thatcher’s father Alfred Roberts do? How did he influence her character and outlook? Has she always remained “the grocer’s daughter”?
2. Has she tried to follow her father’s advice all her life: “Never run with the crowd, Margaret. Go your own way”?
3. Where did Margaret Thatcher (née Roberts) first meet her future husband Denis Thatcher? Why did her marital status matter in her political career? What were her views on married life? Did she see herself as an ideal wife?

4. How did young Margaret Roberts express her political views at a dinner arranged by Dartford Conservative Association? What did she mean by saying that “those that can, they must get up and do it”?
5. What were Thatcher’s impressions when she first arrived in the House of Commons? Why did Airey Neave, Conservative MP, call it a madhouse?

Comment on the following scenes in the film:

00:08:19

- *Father:* Did someone cover the butter?
- *Margaret:* I’ll go.
- *Mother:* Leave it.
- *Father:* Margaret... Good girl. Tomorrow, no matter what they do, it’ll be business as usual.

00:09:30

- *Margaret:* I’ve got a place at Oxford.
- *Father:* Don’t let me down, Margaret.
- *Margaret:* Mother?
- *Mother:* My hands are still damp.

00:16:29

- *Host:* So was your father a political man too, Miss Roberts?
- *Margaret:* Oh, yes, to his core. And Mayor of Grantham.
- *Host:* And a grocer as well!
- *Margaret:* Yes.
- *Female Guest:* And did you help, in the shop?
- *Margaret:* Oh, yes. It was a family business.
- *Male Guest 1:* A very good starting point for the political life, I’m sure.
- *Margaret:* That and a degree from Oxford... What I do think is that a man should be encouraged to stand on his own two feet. Yes, we help people, of course, we help people. But for those that can do they must just get up and do. And if something’s wrong, they shouldn’t just whine about it they should get in there and *do* something about it, change things.
- *Host:* With all due respect, Miss Roberts, what may have served in Grantham...
- *Margaret:* Can serve very well for the people of Dartford too.

- *Male Guest 2*: Really?
- *Margaret*: I know much more than those who have never lived on a limited income. Just like the man or woman on the street, when I am short one week I have to make economies the next.
- *Male Guest 1*: Nothing like a slice of fiscal responsibility.
- *Margaret*: A man might call it fiscal responsibility, a woman might call it good housekeeping. I'm not sure a home economics lesson is quite what the Dartford constituents need.
- *Male Guest 2*: They see industry being nationalized the unions on the up, the pound on the slide. Whoever can sort that lot out, he's my man.
- *Margaret*: Or woman.

00:25:49

- *Denis Thatcher*: Margaret, will you marry me? Well?
- *Margaret*: Yes. Yes!
- *Denis Thatcher*: What?
- *Margaret*: I love you so much but I will never be one of those women Denis- who stays silent and pretty on the arm of her husband. Or remote and alone in the kitchen doing the washing up for that matter.
- *Denis Thatcher*: We'll get a help for that.
- *Margaret*: No. One's life must matter, Denis. Beyond the cooking and the cleaning and the children, one's life must mean more than that. I cannot die washing up a teacup.

Education Secretary (1970–1974) and Leader of the Opposition (1975–1979)

1. Which problems did Thatcher have to face as Education Secretary? Why did she have to shut down the schools?
2. What was the Conservative Party accused of?
3. Did Thatcher support the idea of equality?
4. Why was 1974 compared to the years of World War II?
5. Why did Thatcher decide to run for Leader of the Party? How did her family take the news? Why did her husband think it was ambition rather than duty?
6. Could Thatcher's political career be compared to climbing the greasy pole as her husband put it?
7. Why did Thatcher think Britain had a great deal to learn from the USA?

8. Which changes did Airey Neave, Thatcher's campaign manager, and James Reece, her political strategist, decide to make to her appearance? Why did her voice lack authority? Which role did the handbag play in her image?
9. How did a voice coach teach Thatcher to speak?
10. How was Airey Neave assassinated? Who claimed responsibility for his murder?

Comment on the following scenes in the film:

00:33:00

- *The Speaker*: The Right Honourable Lady the Secretary of State for Education.
- *Margaret Thatcher*: The Right Honourable Gentleman knows that we have no choice but to shut down the schools! Because his union paymasters have called a strike deliberately to cripple our economy. Teachers cannot teach when there is no heating, no lighting in their classrooms. And I ask the honourable gentleman, whose fault is that?
- *MP*: Methinks the Right Honourable Lady doth screech too much. If she wants us to take her seriously, she must learn to calm down!
- *Margaret Thatcher*: If the right honourable gentleman could perhaps attend more closely to What I am saying, rather than *how* I am saying it, he may receive a valuable education in spite of himself!

00:35:07

- *Prime Minister Edward Heath*: So these power cuts will continue unless we can reach a compromise. The miners are asking for a 35 % increase in wages. Obviously we can't go anywhere near that. The unions are not our enemies and never have been. We want and have always wanted the broadest consensus. I'm sure we are all in agreement that we must do nothing for the moment that will further inflame the current situation.
- *The Cabinet*: Hear, hear, Prime Minister.
- *Prime Minister Edward Heath*: The fact of the matter is it's absolutely crucial that we are seen by the public to be acting as conciliators and not aggressors. Yes, Education Secretary.
- *Margaret Thatcher*: Yes, Prime Minister. With the miners' leader calling today for the army to mutiny in support of the strikes, this seems the wrong time for conciliation.

00:36:22

- *Alfred Roberts:* We on this island are strong. We're self-reliant. Napoleon called us a nation of shopkeepers. He meant it as an insult but to me it's a compliment. That's why he couldn't beat us, and that's why Hitler can't beat us. We Conservatives believe in giving people the freedom and opportunity to fulfil their own potential, especially the young. There's no good in pretending we're all equal. We're not all the same, never have been, never will be. We should encourage our children to aspire to achieve more than we have for our children today will be the leaders of tomorrow.

00:37:18

- *Carol:* My driving instructor thinks I should pass but I feel as if I've hardly had any lessons. Ridiculous isn't it? Maybe third time lucky.
- *Margaret Thatcher:* Right. The only thing you should remember is that everyone else is either reckless or inept. And often both. One must be brave if one is to take the wheel.
- 00:39:25
- *Margaret Thatcher:* We both know that it's highly unlikely that I would ever be elected leader but I will run. I will run. Just to nip at their heels and make them reaffirm the principles on which the Conservative Party must stand. There's so much to do.
- *Denis:* You're insufferable, Margaret, do you know that?
- *Margaret Thatcher:* Denis, you married someone who is committed to public service, you knew that. And it is my duty...
- *Denis:* Don't call it duty. It's ambition which has got you this far. Ambition. And the rest of us, me, the children, we can all go to hell! Don't worry about me, I'll be fine!
- *Margaret Thatcher:* Where did you go?
- *Denis:* South Africa.
- *Margaret Thatcher:* Yes. Yes.
- *Denis:* How many days passed before you realized I was gone? Probably had to ask the cleaning woman where I was.
- *Margaret Thatcher:* When did I lose track of everyone?
- *Denis:* Too busy climbing the greasy pole, MT.

00:40:32

- *The interviewer:* Mrs Thatcher, I understand you recently visited the United States of America. What was it you took away from that visit which may be of value here in Great Britain?
- *Margaret Thatcher:* Oh that's rather easy to answer, actually. They are unafraid of success. We in Great Britain and in Europe are formed mainly by our history. They on the other hand are formed by their philosophy. Not by what has been, but by what can be. Oh, we have a great deal that we can learn from them, yes.

00:41:41

- *James Reece:* But the main thing is your voice. It's too high. It has no authority.
- *Airey Neave:* Methinks the Lady doth screech too much
- *James Reece:* People don't want to be harangued by a woman or hectored. Persuaded, yes.

00:42:40

- *James Reece:* One simply has to maximise your appeal, bring out all your qualities and make you look, and sound, like the leader that you could be.
- *Airey Neave:* You've got it in you to go the whole distance.
- *James Reece:* Absolutely.
- *Margaret Thatcher:* Prime Minister?! Oh no. Oh no, no, no. In Britain? There will be no female Prime Minister here, not in my lifetime. No. And I told Airey, I don't expect to win the leadership, but I *am* going to run just to shake up the party.
- *Airey Neave:* Respectfully, Margaret, I disagree. If you want to change this party, lead it. If you want to change the country, lead it. What we're talking about here today is surface. What's crucial is that you hold your course and stay true to who you are. Never be anything other than yourself.
- *James Reece:* Leave us to do the rest.

Premiership — first term (1979–1983)

1. What is the meaning of the words from the Prayer of Saint Francis de Assisi paraphrased by Thatcher when she became Prime Minister on 4 May 1979?

2. What was the cause of the Brixton Riots in Britain in 1981?
3. Why did the common people call Thatcher a monster?
4. Why did Thatcher's Cabinet suggest that they should alter their plan of action? Did she agree with their proposal?
5. What did Geoffrey Howe, Thatcher's Cabinet minister, mean by saying that "one must be careful not to test one's colleagues' loyalties too far"?
6. How did the phrase "It must be business as usual", which Thatcher's father once said during the bombing raid, express her way of dealing with troubles?
7. What happened during IRA's 1984 Brighton Grand Hotel attack?

00:49:12

- *Margaret Thatcher*: I should just like to say that I take very seriously the trust the British people placed in me today and I will work hard every day to live up to that responsibility. And now, I should like to share with you a prayer of St Francis of Assisi: "Where there is discord may we bring harmony. Where there is error may we bring truth. Where there is doubt may we bring faith. And where there is despair may we bring hope."

00:59:37

- *Michael Heseltine*: I know you're running late, Margaret, but we have to address this situation in light of tomorrow's blistering press coverage. Blistering! The knives are out. Your draft budget's been leaked, Geoffrey, they are baying for our blood!
- *Geoffery Howe*: Michael, we can't possibly buckle at the first sign of difficulty.
- *Michael Heseltine*: No one is saying we have to buckle.
- *Cabinet Minister 1*: But is this really the time to make these spending cuts in the middle of one of the deepest recessions this country has ever experienced?
- *Michael Heseltine*: We need a plan of action, Margaret.
- *Cabinet Minister 2*: Absolutely. A strategy.
- *Cabinet Minister 3*: We must be armed.
- *Cabinet Minister 1*: There's a perception, Margaret, rightly or wrongly, that we are now completely out of touch with the country.
- *Margaret Thatcher*: Really. How much is a pack of Lurpak?
- *Cabinet Minister 2*: Lurpak?

- *Margaret Thatcher*: Butter, Francis. Forty two pence. Anchor butter is forty pence. Flora margarine, still the cheapest, is thirty eight pence. I can assure you I am not out of touch.
- *Cabinet Minister 3*: Grocer's daughter.
- *Margaret Thatcher*: Sorry, I didn't hear you. What did you say?
- *Cabinet Minister 3*: Nothing, Prime Minister. Nothing.
- *Margaret Thatcher*: No, no, please. Don't try to hide you opinions. Goodness me, I'd much rather you were open and straight forward about them instead of continuously and damagingly leaking them to the press. Well?
- *Cabinet Ministers*: Well, people can't pay their mortgages. The manufacturing industry is practically on its knees. Honest, hard-working, decent people are losing their homes. It's terribly shameful. The point is, Prime Minister, that we must moderate the pace...
- *Michael Heseltine*: If we're even to have a hope of winning the next election.
- *Margaret Thatcher*: Ah. Worried about our careers, are we? Gentlemen, if we don't cut spending we will be bankrupt. Yes, the medicine is harsh but the patient requires it in order to live. Shall we withhold the medicine? No! We are not wrong. We did not seek election and win in order to manage the decline of a great nation. The people of this country chose us because they believe we can restore the health of the British economy and we will do just that! Barring a failure of nerve...
- *Geoffery Howe*: You can't close down a discussion because it's not what you wish to hear.
- *Margaret Thatcher*: I don't expect everyone just to sit there and agree with me. But what kind of leader am I if I don't try to get my own way to do what I know to be right.
- *Geoffery Howe*: Yes. But Margaret, one must be careful not to test one's colleagues' loyalties too far

01:03:23

- *Margaret Thatcher*: There are those who would say hold back, there are those who would make us retreat. But we shall never give in to them. We shall never waver, not for a second, in our determination to see this country prosper once again... And now, it must be business as usual.

The Falklands (1982)

1. What was the cause of the Falklands War?
2. Why did the Cabinet think they couldn't afford to go to war? Did Thatcher support their opinion?
3. Which position did the USA take in the conflict?
4. Why did Thatcher make the decision to sink the Argentinian ship *General Belgrano*?
5. What was the outcome of the war?
6. Which words did Margaret Thatcher write to the families of all the soldiers who had died for the Falklands?
7. Why was Britain back in business after the war?

Comment on the following scenes in the film:

01:09:03

- *Margaret Thatcher*: Gentlemen, the Argentinian Junta which is a fascist gang has invaded our sovereign territory. This cannot be tolerated. May I make plain my negotiating position. I will not negotiate with criminals or thugs. The Falkland Islands belong to Britain, and I want them back.

01:11:02

- *U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig*: So you are proposing to go to war over these Islands. They're thousands of miles away, a handful of citizens, politically and economically insignificant, if you'll excuse me.
- *Margaret Thatcher*: Just like Hawaii, I imagine.
- *U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig*: I'm sorry?
- *Margaret Thatcher*: 1941, when Japan attacked Pearl Harbour. Did America go cap in hand and ask Tōjō for a peaceful negotiation of terms? Did she turn her back on her own citizens there because the islands were thousands of miles from mainland United States? No, no, no! We will stand on principle or we shall not stand at all.
- *U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig*: But Margaret with all due respect when one has been to war...

- *Margaret Thatcher*: With all due respect, sir, I have done battle every single day of my life and many men have underestimated me before. This lot seem bound to do the same but they will rue the day.

01:16:59

- *Margaret Thatcher*: We congratulate the men and women of the Armed Forces for their skill, bravery and loyalty to this country. We were faced with an act of unprovoked aggression and we responded as we have responded in times past: with unity, strength and courage, sure in the knowledge that though much is sacrificed, in the end, right will prevail over wrong. And I put it to the Right Honourable Member opposite that this is not a day for him to carp, find fault, demand inquiries, they will happen, I can assure him of that for we have nothing to hide. No, this is a day to put difference aside, hold one's head high and take pride in being British.

Premiership — second and third terms (1983-1990)

1. Which considerable disagreement about the introduction of a single currency did Thatcher have with her Cabinet?
2. Why did the Cabinet demand the change in the style of Thatcher's management and why was it against tax reforms?
3. What was the reason for Thatcher's outburst of temper during the meeting with her Cabinet? Why were her hands shaking when the meeting was over?
4. Why did Lord President Geoffrey Howe offer his resignation?
5. Why did there arise a need to depose a sitting Prime Minister?
6. Why did Thatcher's husband advise her to throw in the towel?

01:19:55

- *Cabinet Minister*: Prime Minister I just don't think we can ask the poorest of the poor to pay the same amount of tax as a multi-millionaire.
- *Margaret Thatcher*: There you go again! Why not?
- *Cabinet Minister*: Because people on the whole think that the tax is manifestly unfair.
- *Margaret Thatcher*: Nonsense. Arrant nonsense. This is a simple proposition. In order to live in this country, you must pay for the privilege something, anything! If you pay nothing, you care nothing. What do you care where you

throw your rubbish? Your council estate is a mess, your town, graffiti, what do you care? It's not your problem, it's somebody else's problem — it's the government's problem! Your problem, some of you, is that you haven't got the courage for this fight. You haven't had to fight hard for anything. It's all been given to you and you feel guilty about it! Well, may I say, on behalf of all those who have had to fight their way up, and who don't feel guilty about it, we resent those slackers who take, take, take and contribute nothing to the community! And I see the same thing, the same cowardice in our fight within the European Union. Cowardice for the sovereignty of Britain, the integrity of the pound! Some of you want to make concessions. I hear some of you agree with the latest French proposals. Well, why don't you get on a boat to Calais? Yes, why don't you put on a beret and pay 85 % of your income to the French government!

Present Time

1. Why does Thatcher keep talking to her dead husband all the time? Which events does she discuss with him?
2. Why is it so difficult for Thatcher to give away her husband's clothes?
3. What are Thatcher's relations with her daughter Carol and why does she keep remembering her son Mark so often?
4. Does Thatcher think that her family was happy when she was an eminent politician? Was she really a boss lady as her husband humorously called her?
5. What does Thatcher mean by saying that "she has always preferred the company of men"?
6. Why does Thatcher remain an inspiration for some women?
7. What does Thatcher mean by saying that "it used to be about trying to do something. Now it's about trying to be someone"?
8. Do you agree with Thatcher's remark that "one of the great problems of our age is that we are governed by people who care more about feelings than thoughts and ideas"?
9. What is the meaning of the statement "What we think, we become"? Did Thatcher manage to become "what she thought"?
10. How do the lines from Kipling's poem "The Female of the Species" read to Thatcher by her husband characterise her?

*When the Himalayan peasant meets the he-bear in his pride,
He shouts to scare the monster who will often turn aside.*

*But the she-bear thus accosted rends the peasant tooth and nail,
For the female of the species is more deadly than the male.*

11. Did Thatcher fulfil her ambition to make a difference in the world?

12. Which symbolic role does the cup play in the film?

00:18:52

- *Male guest:* So, Margaret, how would you have dealt with this if you'd been Prime Minister?
- *Margaret Thatcher:* Where?
- *Carol:* The bombings, mummy. Today? We were just talking about them?
- *Margaret Thatcher:* Yes, we have always lived alongside evil. But it has never been so patient, so avid for carnage, so eager to carry innocents along with it into oblivion. Western civilization must root out this evil, wherever it hides, or she risks defeat at the hands of global terror in a nuclear age.

00:19:50

- *Female guest:* I heard you speak at conference in Brighton in 1984 just after the IRA bombed the Grand Hotel. You were remarkable. I hope you appreciate what an inspiration you have been for women like myself.
- *Margaret Thatcher:* It used to be about trying to do something. Now it's about trying to be someone.

00:51:41

- *Margaret Thatcher:* My husband has been gone for years. Cancer.
- *Doctor:* Carol says you've decided to let his things go. Probably a good thing.
- *Margaret Thatcher:* Yes. It was my idea. To Oxfam. Perfectly good stuff. People can use these things.
- *Doctor:* Still it must be a bit disorientating. You are bound to be feeling...
- *Margaret Thatcher:* What? What am I "bound to be feeling"? People don't "think" any more. They "feel". "How are you feeling?" "Oh I don't feel comfortable with that", "Oh, I'm so sorry but we, the group, were feeling..." Do you know one of the great problems of our age is that we are governed by people who care more about feelings than thoughts and ideas. Now thoughts and ideas that interests me. Ask me what I am thinking...
- *Doctor:* What are you thinking, Margaret?
- *Margaret Thatcher:* Watch your thoughts, for they become words. Watch your words, for they become actions. Watch your actions, for they become habits.

Watch your habits, for they become your character. And watch your character, for it becomes your destiny. What we think, we become. My father always said that. And I think I am fine.

01:31:46

- *Margaret Thatcher:* Don't they know if you take the tough decisions, yes, people will hate you today but they'll thank you for generations.
- *Denis Thatcher:* Or forget you entirely and chuck you out with the rubbish!
- *Margaret Thatcher:* All I wanted was to make a difference in the world.
- *Denis Thatcher:* And you did, love, you did.
- *Margaret Thatcher:* All I wanted was for my children to grow up well and be happy, happier than I was certainly.

Active Vocabulary

- to be self-reliant
- hoity-toity
- to run with the crowd
- to let sb. down
- to claim responsibility
- to give in to terrorists
- to fuss about sth.
- a good starting point for the political life
- to be encouraged to stand on one's own feet
- to whine about sth.
- good housekeeping
- to live alongside evil
- to root sth. out
- to be an inspiration for sb.
- to win a seat in Parliament
- to be on one's tail
- a safe seat
- to shut down the schools
- to call a strike
- to cripple economy
- the breakdown of essential public services
- to reach a compromise

- to be the wrong time for conciliation
- to mean sth. as a compliment
- to be brave to take the wheel
- to have the guts to do sth.
- to weaken the party
- to run for Leader of the Party
- to be committed to public service
- to be harangued by sb.
- to be hectored by sb.
- to maximise one's appeal
- to shake up the party
- to stay true to who you are
- to shake off the shackles of socialism
- to restore the country to greatness
- to live up to the responsibility
- the longest serving Prime Minister
- to remain a controversial figure
- to be dubbed by the Soviets the Iron Lady
- to change the face of history
- to transform the British economy
- to be blamed for savage public spending cuts
- the collapse in sth.
- to bay for blood
- to buckle at the first sign of difficulty
- to experience deep recession
- to be out of touch with the country
- to moderate the pace
- to manage the decline of a great nation
- to require harsh medicine
- to test one's loyalists too far
- to be one split nation
- to invade the sovereign territory
- to negotiate with criminals or thugs
- to be left without any naval protection
- to be politically and economically insignificant
- to ask for a peaceful negotiation of terms
- to rue the day

- to stand on principle
- to be seen as aggressors
- retaliation for sth.
- to die in vain
- to be faced with an act of unprovoked aggression
- to respond with unity, strength, and courage
- to put differences aside
- right will prevail over wrong
- to take pride in being British
- to bury one's head in the sand
- to contribute nothing to the community
- to make concessions
- to resent slackers
- to reconcile the differences
- sloppy wording
- to behave appallingly
- to depose a sitting Prime Minister
- to throw in the towel
- to see sb. humiliated
- vacillator
- popularity seeker
- to take tough decisions
- to make a difference in the world

The Real King's Speech (2011) Documentary

Director: David Barrie

Narrator (voice): Lawrence Fox

DISCUSSION

1. Why do Lionel Logue's patients owe him a lifetime debt?
2. Why did one of Lionel Logue's patients describe himself as being behind prison bars?
3. Which speech impediment did the Duke of York/King George VI suffer from? How did people react to it?
4. Why was the speech at the Empire Colonial Exhibition in 1924 so important for the monarchy?
5. Which word did the Duke of York/King George VI use to describe how he felt when giving a speech? What emotions did this word convey?
6. Why was stammering usually linked with mental disability? Why do people with stammer tend to feel second-rate?
7. How did the two brothers, Prince Albert (Bertie) and Prince Edward, differ from each other?
8. What were the most likely reasons for Bertie's stammer?
9. How did stammer affect Bertie's character?
10. How did Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon support her husband?
11. Who was Lionel Logue and how did he start his practice in London? What were his treatment methods? Did speech therapy exist as a separate branch of medicine at the time?
12. Why did the Duke of York/King George VI and his wife have to seek Lionel Logue's help in 1926?
13. Why was treating stammer considered to be "a problem managed rather than a problem solved"?
14. Why did King Edward VIII renounce the throne and how did his abdication change Prince Albert's life? Which challenges of kingship did Prince Albert have to confront?
15. Why did these words of the Archbishop of Canterbury about King George VI sound terrible:

“When his people listen to him, they will note an occasional and momentary hesitation in his speech, but he has brought it into full control and to those who hear, it need cause no sort of embarrassment for it causes none to him who speaks”?

16. How did Lionel Logue help the Duke of York/King George VI with his speeches?
17. What were the relations between Lionel Logue and the Duke of York/King George VI? Were they mates in the true sense of the word?
18. Why did Lionel Logue teach his patients to make pauses? Which effect did they create?
19. How did King George VI bear the burden of kingship during World War II? Why did people stop stammering when giving orders at war?
20. Why was King George VI's speech of Christmas 1944 considered to be an action of a confident man?
21. When and how did King George VI finally find his voice?
22. How did Lionel Logue take away the bars and let his patients fly?

Active Vocabulary

- to suffer from a debilitating speech impediment
- innovative speech therapist
- to owe sb. a lifetime debt
- iconic speech
- the marvel of the modern age
- to look and sound regal
- to perform directly to millions of people
- to be afflicted by shyness and a fear of speaking in public
- to have a speech deficiency
- to be confronted, face to face, with a new reality
- to link stammering with a certain kind of mental disability
- to be in sharp contrast with sth./sb.
- ugly duckling
- cock pheasant
- to have a strict upbringing
- to put braces on the legs
- to be knock-kneed
- to add up to a pretty grim picture

- to be supportive of sb.
- to cure sb.'s speech impediment
- to be distrustful of sb.
- to be in one's infancy
- to open one's practice
- to teach elocution
- to be gentle and welcoming
- to contribute to sb.s stammer
- flabby waistline
- nervous tension
- to practise intensively
- the mechanics of sound
- to get stuck on some sound
- to be fully involved in sb.'s treatment
- to create an unbroken column of air up your windpipe
- to prescribe sb.an hour of exercises
- a source of great frustration
- to be prepared for kingship
- to be infatuated with an American divorcee
- to abdicate
- to put the burden on sb.
- to renounce the throne
- unprecedented crisis
- to give sb.'s confidence the boost
- to identify problem words
- to take the trouble to go through each sentence/word/syllable/sound
- to cut together a safety copy
- to be mingling with members of the Royal family
- a couple of commoners
- to face an unrelenting schedule of speeches, state functions, and royal engagements
- to feel second-rate
- speech disorders
- to need psychological support
- to listen with bated breath
- slow and deliberate delivery
- to have an unexpected benefit

- to speak with gravitas
- to be discreet about one's relationship with sb.
- to stay in the royal wings
- to visibly remain a struggle for sb.
- to be absolutely determined to conquer speech impediment
- to be a symbol of courage and resolve, of determination and resistance
- the outbreak of war
- a matter of life and death
- psychological counsellor
- to do sth. purely for linguistic reasons
- to underline words for emphasis
- a personal defining moment
- to tackle problems head-on
- to take away the bars

The King's Speech (2010)

Director: Tom Hooper

Stars: Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush, Helena Bonham Carter, Guy Pearce

DISCUSSION

Historical background

1. What is the time period the film covers?
2. How did Prince Albert, Duke of York, become King George VI?
3. Why did Edward VIII, Prince Albert's elder brother, abdicate?
4. Who was Wallis Simpson?
5. What role did Lionel Logue play in King George VI's life and how was he rewarded for his help?

The characters in the film

Prince Albert/King George VI

1. Why does he agree to let Lionel Logue treat his stammer?
2. When did his stammer first appear and what might have caused it?
3. Why is he short-tempered and irritable by nature?
4. What are the relations between King George V and his younger son?
5. Does he see himself as a successor to the throne?

Lionel Logue

1. How did he become a speech therapist?
2. Why are his treatment methods referred to as "unorthodox and controversial"?
3. Why does he require total equality with his patients without making any exceptions?
4. How does he help Prince Albert to overcome his stammer? Which phonetic tricks does he teach him to perform in order to speak more fluently?
5. Which famous writer does he quote all the time and why?

Princess Elizabeth

1. How does she support and encourage her husband?
2. Why does she take her husband to Lionel Logue despite his objections to seeing any more doctors?

Prince Edward/King Edward VIII

1. How does King George V comment on his son's relationship with Wallis Simpson and how do leading British politicians view it?
2. "Does the King do what he wants or does he do what the people expect him to do?" What does Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin mean by these words?
3. Is it possible to justify Edward VIII's abdication for the sake of the woman he loved?

Wallis Simpson

1. How is Wallis Simpson presented in the film?
2. What do the members of the royal family (Prince Albert, Princess Elizabeth, King George V) think about her?

Winston Churchill

1. Why does Winston Churchill admit that he and King George VI face the same speech problem?
2. What are the special features of his speech?

General questions

1. Why is the film called "The King's Speech"?
2. What is rhetoric and why is it essential for successful communication?
3. What is the role of phonetics in public speaking? Which phonetic aspects make one's speech clear and convincing?
4. Do you agree with the statement from the film that "anyone who can shout vowels in an open window can learn to deliver a speech"?
5. How does the ability to speak publicly affect a politician's image? Illustrate the point by giving some examples.

Comment on the following scenes in the film:

00:09:19

- *Lionel Logue*: Ah, Mrs Johnson, there you are. I'm sorry I don't have a receptionist. I like to keep things simple. "Poor and content is rich and rich enough."
- *Elizabeth, Duchess of York*: Sorry?
- *Lionel Logue*: Shakespeare.

00:09:53

- *Elizabeth, Duchess of York*: My husband has seen everyone to no avail. I'm awfully afraid he's given up hope.
- *Lionel Logue*: He hasn't seen me.
- *Elizabeth, Duchess of York*: You're awfully sure of yourself.
- *Lionel Logue*: Well, I'm sure of anyone who wants to be cured.

00:10:31

- *Elizabeth, Duchess of York*: I don't have a 'hubby.' We don't 'pop.' And nor do we ever talk about our private lives.

00:11:13

- *Lionel Logue*: I thought the appointment was for Johnson. Forgive me, your ...?
- *Elizabeth, Duchess of York*: ...Royal Highness.
- *Lionel Logue*: Royal Highness.
- *Elizabeth, Duchess of York*: Johnson was used during the Great War, when the Navy didn't want the enemy to know he was aboard.
- *Lionel Logue*: Am I considered the enemy?
- *Elizabeth, Duchess of York*: You will be, if you remain unobliging.

00:20:32

- *Lionel Logue*: Well I believe when speaking with a prince, one waits for the prince to choose the topic.
- *Prince Albert*: Waiting for me to commence a conversation one can wait a rather a long wait.

00:22:37

- *Lionel Logue*: I believe, sucking smoke into your lungs will kill you.
- *Prince Albert*: My physicians say it relaxes the throat.
- *Lionel Logue*: They're idiots.
- *Prince Albert*: They've all been knighted.
- *Lionel Logue*: Makes it official then.

00:25:04

- *Lionel Logue*: I'll bet you that you can read flawlessly, right here, right now. And if I win the bet, I get to ask you more questions.
- *Prince Albert*: And if I win?
- *Lionel Logue*: Then you don't have to answer them.
- *Prince Albert*: One usually wagers money.
- *Lionel Logue*: A bob each to keep it sweet? Let's see your shilling?
- *Prince Albert*: I don't carry money.
- *Lionel Logue*: I had a funny feeling you mightn't. I'll stake you. You can pay me back next time.
- *Prince Albert*: Who says there is a next time?
- *Lionel Logue*: I haven't agreed to take you on yet.

00:27:10

- *Prince Albert*: You're playing music.
- *Lionel Logue*: I know.
- *Prince Albert*: So how can I hear what I'm saying?!
- *Lionel Logue*: Surely a Prince's brain knows what its mouth is doing?
- *Prince Albert*: You're not well acquainted with Royal Princes, are you?

00:30:37

- *King George V*: In the past all a king had to do was look respectable in uniform and not fall off his horse. Now we must invade people's homes and ingratiate ourselves with them. This family has been reduced to those lowest, basest of all creatures... we've become actors.
- *Prince Albert*: We're not a family, we're a firm.
- *King George V*: Yet at any moment, some of us may be out of work.

00:37:59

- *Lionel Logue*: Anyone who can shout vowels in an open window can learn to deliver a speech.

00:39:50

- *Prince Edward*: Old bugger's doing this on purpose.
- *Prince Albert*: Dying?
- *Prince Edward*: Departing prematurely to complicate matters with Wallis.

00:48:51

- *Prince Albert*: I was informed, after the fact that my father's last words were: "Bertie has more guts than the rest of his brothers put together." He couldn't say that to my face.

00:50:53

- *Prince Albert*: To tell the truth, it was a relief knowing I wouldn't be King.

00:52:23

- *Lionel Logue*: Did David ever tease you?
- *Prince Albert*: Oh, yes, they all did. "Buh-buh-buh-Bertie." Father encouraged it. "Get it out, boy!" Said it would make me stop. He said: "I was afraid of my father, and my children are damn well going to be afraid of me."

00:55:25

- *Prince Albert*: You know, Lionel, you're the first ordinary Englishman...
- *Lionel Logue*: Australian.
- *Prince Albert*:...I've ever really spoken to. When I'm driven through the streets and I see, you know, the common man staring at me, I'm struck by how little I know of his life, and how little he knows of mine. Thank you.
- *Lionel Logue*: What are friends for?
- *Prince Albert*: I wouldn't know.

00:56:27

- *Elizabeth, Duchess of York*: One hundred year old spruces removed to improve the view! Who does she think she is!
- *Prince Albert*: Nonetheless, we must try to be pleasant towards Mrs Simpson.
- *Elizabeth, Duchess of York*: You know she calls me the fat Scottish cook.
- *Prince Albert*: You're not fat.
- *Elizabeth, Duchess of York*: I'm getting plump.
- *Prince Albert*: You seldom cook.

00:57:57

- *Winston Churchill*: Etiquette decrees that royalty should be greeted by the official host. In this case, the King. Not a commoner.

00:58:40

- *Prince Albert*: David, I've been trying to see you.
- *Edward VIII*: I've been terribly busy.
- *Prince Albert*: Doing what?
- *Edward VIII*: Kinging.
- *Prince Albert*: Really?
- *Edward VIII*: Kinging is a precarious business these days.
- *Prince Albert*: Is kinging laying off eighty staff and buying more pearls for Wallis while people are marching across Europe singing "The Red Flag"?
- *Edward VIII*: Stop your worrying. Herr Hitler will sort them out.

00:59:45

- *Prince Albert*: The Church doesn't recognise divorce and you are the head of the Church.
- *Edward VIII*: Haven't I any rights?
- *Prince Albert*: Many privileges...
- *Edward VIII*: Not the same thing. Your beloved common man may marry for love, why not me?
- *Prince Albert*: If you were a common man, on what basis could you possibly claim to be King?

01:00:19

- *Edward VIII*: Yearning for a larger audience are we, Buh-buh-buh-Bertie?... Younger brother trying to push older brother off the throne. Po-po-positively medieval.

01:01:05

- *Lionel Logue*: Why do you stammer so much more with David than you ever do with me?
- *Prince Albert*: Because you're bloody well paid to listen!
- *Lionel Logue*: Bertie, I'm not a geisha girl.
- *Prince Albert*: Stop trying to be so bloody clever!

01:03:40

- *Lionel Logue*: You can outshine David...
- *Prince Albert*: Don't take liberties! That's bordering on treason.
- *Lionel Logue*: I'm just saying you could be King. You could do it!
- *Prince Albert*: That is treason!

01:16:58

- *George VI*: Waiting for a king to apologize, one can wait rather a long wait.

01:18:33

- *George VI*: Every monarch in history has succeeded someone who was dead, or just about to be. My predecessor is not only alive, but very much so. A bloody mess!

01:22:48

- *George VI*: I should like the Doctor to be seated in the King's Box.
- *Archbishop of Canterbury*: But members of your family will be seated there, Sir.
- *George VI*: That is why it is suitable.

01:25:51

- *Lionel Logue*: My job was to give them faith in their own voice and let them know that a friend was listening. That must ring a few bells with you, Bertie.

01:27:59

- *Lionel Logue*: Why should I waste my time listening to you?
- *George VI*: Because I have a right to be heard!
- *Lionel Logue*: Heard as what?!
- *George VI*: I have a voice!!!
- *Lionel Logue*: Yes, you do. You have such perseverance, Bertie. You're the bravest man I know. And you'll make a bloody good king.

01:36:42

- *Lionel Logue*: Long pauses are good: they add solemnity to great occasions.
- *George VI*: Then I'm the solemnest king who ever lived.
- *George VI*: You know, if I'm a king...where's my power? Can I... Can I form a Government? Can I levy a tax or declare a war? No! And yet I'm the seat of all

authority. Why? Because the Nation believes that when I speak, I speak for them. But I can't speak!

01:39:46

- *Winston Churchill*: I too dread this apparatus. Had a speech impediment myself, you know... Family secret. Tongue-tied. An operation was considered to be too dangerous. I eventually made an asset of it.

01:47:50

- *Lionel Logue*: That was very good, Bertie. You still stammered on the "w."
- *George VI*: I had to throw in a few so they knew it was me.

Comment on the stylistic effect of King George VI's first wartime speech on 3 September 1939.

In this grave hour, perhaps the most fateful in our history, I send to every household of my peoples, both at home and overseas, this message, spoken with the same depth of feeling for each one of you as if I were able to cross your threshold and speak to you myself.

For the second time in the lives of most of us, we are at war.

Over and over again, we have tried to find a peaceful way out of the differences between ourselves and those who are now our enemies; but it has been in vain.

We have been forced into a conflict, for we are called, with our allies, to meet the challenge of a principle which, if it were to prevail, would be fatal to any civilized order in the world.

It is a principle which permits a state, in the selfish pursuit of power, to disregard its treaties and its solemn pledges, which sanctions the use of force or threat of force against the sovereignty and independence of other states.

Such a principle, stripped of all disguise, is surely the mere primitive doctrine that might is right, and if this principle were established through the world, the freedom of our own country and of the whole British Commonwealth of nations would be in danger.

But far more than this, the peoples of the world would be kept in bondage of fear, and all hopes of settled peace and of the security, of justice and liberty, among nations, would be ended.

This is the ultimate issue which confronts us. For the sake of all that we ourselves hold dear, and of the world order and peace, it is unthinkable that we should refuse to meet the challenge.

It is to this high purpose that I now call my people at home, and my peoples across the seas, who will make our cause their own.

I ask them to stand calm and firm and united in this time of trial.

The task will be hard. There may be dark days ahead, and war can no longer be confined to the battlefield, but we can only do the right as we see the right, and reverently commit our cause to God. If one and all we keep resolutely faithful to it, ready for whatever service or sacrifice it may demand, then with God's help, we shall prevail.

May He bless and keep us all.

Active Vocabulary

- live (broadcast)
- to address one's subjects on the wireless
- to make one's first broadcast
- to inhale/to exhale
- to enunciate
- to be a promising start
- to no avail
- to cure sb.
- to treat sb.
- to ask for trust and total equality
- to keep things simple
- to have a temper
- to speak with a stammer
- to hesitate
- to read flawlessly
- to look respectable
- to invade people's homes
- to ingratiate oneself with sb.
- to pick up the pieces
- to shirk one's duties
- to wager money
- to owe sb. money
- to relax one's jaw muscles
- to strengthen one's tongue
- to repeat tongue twisters

- to have a flabby tummy
- simple mechanics
- to depart prematurely
- to complicate matters
- to be trapped
- to have guts (to do sth.)
- to tease sb.
- to be naturally right-hand
- to wear metal splints
- to pinch sb.
- to cause stomach problems
- to intend to marry
- to file a petition for divorce
- to recognise divorce
- to brush up
- to swear
- to outshine sb.
- to take liberties with sb.
- to border on treason
- to have continuity
- to discharge one's duties
- to be succeeded by sb.
- to renounce the throne
- to carry the heavy burden of responsibility
- to take one's place
- to bear the idea of a royal life
- predecessor
- to rehearse
- to be shell-shocked
- to give sb. faith in their own voice
- to ring a few bells with sb.
- to make inquiries
- to have credentials
- to know from experience
- the Stone of Scone
- to have perseverance
- to be at war with Germany

- to be tongue-tied
- to make an asset of sth.
- to be splendid

Frost/Nixon (2008)

Director: Ron Howard

Stars: Frank Langella, Michael Sheen

DISCUSSION

Historical background

1. What is the Watergate scandal?
2. What are the key moments of Richard Nixon's presidency?
3. Why does Gerald Ford issue a pardon to Richard Nixon?
4. Who is David Frost?
5. Who is Jack Brennan? What are his relations with Richard Nixon?
6. How were the Nixon Interviews conducted? Why have they become so popular?
7. Which role did Robert Zelnick, John Birt, and James Reston Jr. play in the interviews?
8. What does the suffix "-gate" mean and which other political events have been labelled with it?

The film and its characters

1. Why does the media refer to the day of Nixon's resignation as a controversial day in politics?
2. Why do Americans feel anger at Nixon's resignation?
3. How is Nixon presented in the film? Which feelings does he arouse?
4. Which image does David Frost have?
5. What kind of eyes do Frost and Nixon have? How do their eyes express different emotions?
6. Why is Frost described as a performer, not a journalist?
7. How does Nixon's nickname Tricky Dick reflect people's attitude to him? Why is he also called a bogeyman?
8. How do you understand the following statement from the film: "The misuse of power is the very essence of tyranny. And consider, if you will, the frightening implications of that for a free society"?

9. Do you agree with the following review of “Frost/Nixon” written in *The New Republic*, an American magazine of politics and the arts?
“There’s a moment in director Ron Howard’s “Frost/Nixon”, when James Reston Jr. sees the disgraced ex-president in the flesh for the first time and is taken aback: “He’s taller than I imagined.” Indeed he is. As portrayed by the 6’4” Langella, Richard Nixon is not merely taller than Reston’s imagination, but quite a bit taller than the 5’11” historical record. Langella is an actor of tremendous gravity and charisma, boasting a deep, sonorous voice and an aura of Mephistophelean self-assurance. Nixon, by contrast, was a shifty, restless schemer, desperately insecure about how others perceived him. He was, in the metaphorical even more than the literal sense of the word, small. This is the irony of “Frost/Nixon”: Though it chronicles the moment when (in theory) the 37th president of the United States was cut down to size, the movie’s presentation of him is utterly larger than life.”
10. What impression of David Frost and Richard Nixon does the film create? Do you empathise with them?

Psychological aspects

1. Why does Nixon agree to be interviewed by David Frost and how does he treat their interviews? Why does he want them to be no-holds-barred interviews?
2. Why does Nixon mention his tendency to perspire to David Frost?
3. Why does Frost decide to start his first interview with the question about the tapes that Nixon didn’t burn?
4. Which recommendations did Frost’s team make to him about conducting the interview?
5. How does Nixon start answering the questions at the interview?
6. What does Nixon say about the Vietnam War and Cambodia?
7. Why does Nixon decide to call Frost at night? What is the main point of his emotional speech?
8. How does Nixon’s manner change after his short conversation with Brennan during the interview? Which emotions does his face express?
9. Why does Frost accuse Nixon of obstructing justice in the final interview?
10. In what connection does Nixon say that Frost is quoting him out of context and out of order?
11. What does Nixon mean by saying that his mistakes were “mistakes of heart, not mistakes of head”?

12. Why does Nixon finally decide to admit his guilt?

13. Why does Frost present Nixon with a pair of shoes at the end of the film? Does Nixon appreciate this gift?

14. Why does Frost tell Nixon that their night conversation was about cheeseburgers? How does Nixon react to this?

15. Does Nixon achieve the rehabilitation he wanted?

Comment on the ideas behind the following scenes in the film:

00:03:19

- *The media:* A White House aide told NBC News today that impeachment of the President by the full House of Representatives now is a virtual certainty... This is indeed a historic day, the only time a president has ever resigned from office in our nearly 200 years of history.

00:05:09

- *Nixon:* To leave office before my term is completed is abhorrent to every instinct in my body. I have never been a quitter.

00:05:18

- *Zelnick (about Frost):* And that that team would be led by the most unlikely of white knights, a man with no political convictions whatsoever, a man who, as far as I know, had never even voted once in his life. But he was a man who had one big advantage over the rest of us. He understood television.

00:08:09

- *Brennan (about Nixon):* I remember his face. Staring out the window. Down below him, a liberal America cheered, gloated. Hippies, draft dodgers, dilettantes, the same people who'd spit on me when I got back from Vietnam. They'd gotten rid of Richard Nixon, their bogeyman.

00:10:51

- *Gerald Ford:* Now therefore, I, Gerald R. Ford, President of the United States, have granted, and by these presents do grant, a full, free and absolute pardon unto Richard Nixon for all offenses against the United States.
- *Zelnick:* It meant that the man who had committed the greatest felony in American political history would never stand trial.

- *Reston*: It was like he slipped out the back door.

00:11:23

- *Chancellor*: One telegram from Virginia said, "Roosevelt had his New Deal, Truman had his Fair Deal, now Ford has his crooked deal." There was no deal, period.

00:13:18

- *Nixon*: What makes life mean something is purpose. A goal. A battle. A struggle. Well, even if you don't win it. When my doctor declared me unfit to give testimony in the Watergate trial, everybody thought I'd be relieved. Well, they were wrong. That was the lowest I got.

00:26:20

- *Nixon*: Okay, I guess that's it then, huh? Until March. I look forward to it.
- *Frost*: Well, thank you, Mr President. So do I.
- *Nixon*: You know, it's a funny thing that I've never been challenged to a duel before. I guess that's what this is.
- *Frost*: Yeah, well, not really.
- *Nixon*: Of course it is. And I like that. No holds barred, eh? No holds barred.

00:31:42

- *Reston*: I'd like to give Richard Nixon the trial he never had.
- *Frost*: Of course, we'll be asking difficult questions.
- *Reston*: Difficult questions. The man lost 21,000 Americans and a million Indo-Chinese during his administration. He only escaped jail because of Ford's pardon.
- *Frost*: Yes, but equally, going after him in some knee-jerk way, you know, assuming he's a terrible guy, wouldn't that only create more sympathy for him than anything else?
- *Reston*: You know... Right now, I submit it's impossible to feel anything close to sympathy for Richard Nixon. He devalued the presidency, and he left the country that elected him in trauma. The American people need a conviction, pure and simple. The integrity of our political system, of democracy as an idea, entirely depends on it. And if in years to come, people look back and say it was

in this interview that Richard Nixon exonerated himself, that would be the worst crime of all.

00:35:38

- *Nixon*: I can't stand it, Jack! Reducing the presidency to a series of banal anecdotes. I feel like a circus animal doing tricks. And I thought I made it clear! I didn't want to take any questions on Watergate, damn it! Soon as it came to question time, all those sons of bitches ever want to hear about is Watergate! It's as if all my other achievements have ceased to exist.

00:52:52

- *Nixon*: Contractually, I think that we made an agreement that after each question I might dab my upper lip before answering it. Which you won't show, you know, when you cut it together. You're probably aware of my history with perspiration.
- *Frost*: If you're referring to your TV debate with Jack Kennedy in 1960.
- *Nixon*: They say that moisture on my upper lip cost me the presidency. People who heard it on the radio, well, they thought I'd won. But television and the close-up, they create their own sets of meanings. So now they insist I bring a handkerchief and that I have my eyebrows trimmed. You trim yours?
- *Frost*: No.
- *Nixon*: No, of course not. Yeah, you're light-skinned. You got blue eyes. You've got no troubles with perspiration, I imagine.
- *Frost*: No, not that I'm aware.
- *Nixon*: You were obviously born to be on the tube.

01:21:27

- *Nixon*: You know, it's strange. Now, we have sat in chairs opposite one another, talking for hours, it seems, days on end, and yet I've hardly gotten to know you. One of my people, as part of the preparation for this interview, she did a profile on you. And I'm sorry to say that I just got around to reading it tonight. There's some interesting stuff in there. Your Methodist background, the modest circumstances, and then you're off to a grand university full of richer, posher types. What was it? Oxford?
- *Frost*: Cambridge.

- *Nixon*: Did the snobs there look down on you, too? Of course they did. That's our tragedy, isn't it, Mr Frost? No matter how high we get, they still look down at us.
- *Frost*: I really don't know what you're talking about.
- *Nixon*: Yes, you do. Now, come on. No matter how high we get, they still look down at us. If we're honest for a minute, if we reflect privately just for a moment, if we allow ourselves a glimpse into that shadowy place we call our soul, isn't that why we're here now? The two of us? Looking for a way back into the sun, into the limelight, back onto the winner's podium. Because we could feel it slipping away. We were headed, both of us, for the dirt! A place the snobs always told us that we'd end up. Face in the dust. Humiliated all the more for having tried so pitifully hard. Well, to hell with that! We're not gonna let that happen, either of us. We're gonna show those bums. We're gonna make them choke on our continued success, our continued headlines, our continued awards and power and glory! We are gonna make those motherfuckers choke!
- *Frost*: You are. Except only one of us can win.
- *Nixon*: Yes. And I shall be your fiercest adversary. I shall come at you with everything I got, because the limelight can only shine on one of us. And for the other, it'll be the wilderness, with nothing and no one for company but those voices ringing in our head. You can probably tell I've had a drink. It's not too many. Just one or two. But you believe me, when the time comes, I'm gonna be focused and ready for battle.

01:31:56

- *Frost*: Now, looking back on your final year in office, do you feel you ever obstructed justice or were part of a conspiracy to cover up or obstruct justice?
- *Nixon*: No. And I'm interested that you used the term "obstruction of justice." Now, you perhaps have not read the statute with regard to the obstruction of justice.
- *Frost*: As it happens, I have.
- *Nixon*: You have, you say? Well, then, you'll know it doesn't just require an act. It requires a specific corrupt motive. And in this case, I didn't have a corrupt motive. What I was doing was in the interests of political containment.
- *Frost*: Be that as it may, the direct consequences of your actions would have been that two of the convicted burglars would have escaped criminal prosecution. Now, how can that not be a cover-up or obstruction of justice?

- *Nixon:* Well, I think the record shows, Mr Frost, that far from obstructing justice, I was actively facilitating it. When Pat Gray¹ of the FBI telephoned me, this was July 6, I said, "Pat, you go right ahead with your investigation." That's hardly what you'd call obstructing justice.
- *Frost:* Well, that may be, but for two weeks prior to July 6, we now know that you were desperately trying to contain or block the investigation.
- *Nixon:* No, no. Hang on a minute there. I wasn't...
- *Frost:* Obstruction of justice is obstruction of justice, whether it's for a minute or five minutes, and it's no defense to say that your plan failed. I mean, if I try to rob a bank and fail, that's no defense. I still tried to rob the bank.
- *Nixon:* Will you just wait one minute there, Mr Frost? There is no evidence of any kind that I was...
- *Frost:* Well, the reason there is no evidence is because 18 and a half minutes of the conversation with Bob Haldeman² from this June period have mysteriously been erased.
- *Nixon:* That was an unfortunate oversight. And Bob Haldeman is a rigorous and a conscientious note taker. His notes are there for all to see.
- *Frost:* Well, we found something rather better than his notes, a conversation with Charles Colson³, which I don't think has ever been published.
- *Nixon:* It hasn't been published, you say?
- *Frost:* No, but one of my researchers found it in Washington where it's available to anyone who consults the records.
- *Nixon:* Well, I just wondered, you know, if we'd seen it.
- *Frost:* More than seen it, Mr President. You spoke the actual words. Now, you've always claimed you first learned of the break-in on June 23.
- *Nixon:* Yeah.

¹ Louis Patrick Gray III was acting Director of the FBI from May 2, 1972 to April 27, 1973. During this time, the FBI was in charge of the initial investigation into the burglaries that sparked the Watergate scandal, which eventually led to the resignation of President Nixon. Gray was nominated as permanent Director by Nixon on February 15, 1973 but failed to win Senate confirmation. He resigned as FBI director on April 27, 1973, after he admitted to destroying documents received on June 28, 1972, 11 days after the Watergate burglary, that had come from convicted Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt's safe, given to him by White House counsel John Dean.

² Harry Robbins "Bob" Haldeman (better known as H. R. Haldeman) was an American political aide and businessman, best known for his service as White House Chief of Staff to President Richard Nixon. Haldeman was one of many key figures in the Watergate scandal. The unexplained 18½-minute gap in Nixon's Oval Office recordings occurred during a discussion that included the President and Haldeman. On January 1, 1975, Haldeman was convicted of conspiracy and obstruction of justice. He was sentenced to serve 2½ to 8 years, reduced to 1 to 4 years after appeal.

³ Charles "Chuck" Wendell Colson was a Special Counsel to President Richard Nixon from 1969 to 1973. Once known as President Nixon's "hatchet man," Colson gained notoriety at the height of the Watergate affair for being named as one of the Watergate Seven, and pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice for attempting to defame Pentagon Papers defendant Daniel Ellsberg. Although not discovered until several years after Nixon had resigned and Colson had finished serving his prison term, transcripts of a tape-recorded June 20, 1972 White House conversation between Nixon and Colson clearly show both men's early involvement in obstructing justice in the Watergate investigation.

- *Frost*: But this transcript of a tape made three days earlier clearly shows that to be a falsehood. Now, in it you say to Colson, "This whole investigation rests unless one of the seven begins to talk." That's the problem.
- *Nixon*: Well, what do we mean when we say "one of the seven beginning to talk"?
- *Frost*: Then moving on to a conversation you had with John Dean⁴ on March 21, the following year. In one transcript alone, there in black and white, I picked out, and these are your words, one, "You could get \$1 million, and you could get it in cash. I know where it could be gotten." Two, "Your major guy to keep under control is Hunt."⁵ Three, "Don't we have to handle the Hunt situation?" Four, "Get the million bucks. It would seem to me that would be worthwhile." Five, "Don't you agree that you'd better get the Hunt thing going?" Six, "First you've got the Hunt problem. That ought to be handled." Seven, "The money can be provided. Ehrlichman could provide the way to deliver it." Eight, "We've no choice with Hunt but the \$120,000 or whatever it is, right?" Nine, "Christ, turn over any cash we've got." And I could go on. Now, it seems to me that someone running a cover-up couldn't have expressed it more clearly than that, could they?
- *Nixon*: Look, let me just stop you now right there, because you're doing something here which I am not doing, and I will not do throughout these entire broadcasts. You're quoting me out of context, out of order. And I might add, I have participated in all these interviews without a single note in front of me.
- *Frost*: Well, it is your life, Mr President. Now, you've always maintained that you knew nothing about any of this until March 21. But in February, your personal lawyer came to Washington to start the raising of \$219,000 of hush money to be paid to the burglars. Now, do you seriously expect us to believe that you had no knowledge of that?
- *Nixon*: None. I believed the money was for humanitarian purposes. To help disadvantaged people with their defenses.

⁴ John Wesley Dean III served as White House Counsel to United States President Richard Nixon from July 1970 until April 1973. In this position, he became deeply involved in events leading up to the Watergate burglaries and the subsequent Watergate scandal cover-up. He was referred to as "master manipulator of the cover up" by the FBI. He pleaded guilty to a single felony count in exchange for becoming a key witness for the prosecution. This ultimately resulted in a reduced prison sentence.

⁵ Everette Howard Hunt, Jr. was an American intelligence officer and writer. Hunt served for many years as a CIA officer 1949-1970. Hunt, with G. Gordon Liddy and others, was one of the Nixon White House "plumbers" — a secret team of operatives charged with fixing "leaks". Hunt and Liddy engineered the first Watergate burglary, and other undercover operations for Nixon. In the ensuing Watergate Scandal, Hunt was convicted of burglary, conspiracy and wiretapping, eventually serving 33 months in prison.

- *Frost:* Well, it was being delivered on the tops of phone booths with aliases, and at airports by people with gloves on. That's not normally the way lawyers' fees are delivered, is it?
- *Nixon:* Look, I have made statements to this effect before. All that was Haldeman and Ehrlichman's⁶ business. I knew nothing. Okay, fine. Fine! You made a conclusion there. I stated my view, now let's move on. Let's get on to the rest of it.
- *Frost:* No, hold on. No, hold on.
- *Nixon:* No, I don't want to talk...
- *Frost:* If Haldeman and Ehrlichman were the ones really responsible, when you subsequently found out about it, why didn't you call the police and have them arrested? Isn't that just a cover-up of another kind?
- *Nixon:* Yeah, maybe I should have done that. Maybe I should have. Just called the feds into my office and said, "Hey, there's the two men. Haul them down to the dock, fingerprint them and then throw them in the can." I'm not made that way. These men, Haldeman, Ehrlichman, I knew their families. I knew them since they were just kids. Yeah, but you know, politically, the pressure on me to let them go, that became overwhelming! So I did it. I cut off one arm, then I cut off the other, and I'm not a good butcher! And I have always maintained what they were doing, what we were all doing, was not criminal. Look, when you're in office, you gotta do a lot of things sometimes that are not always, in the strictest sense of the law, legal, but you do them because they're in the greater interests of the nation!
- *Frost:* Right. Wait, just so I understand correctly, are you really saying that in certain situations, the President can decide whether it's in the best interests of the nation and then do something illegal?
- *Nixon:* I'm saying that when the President does it, that means it's not illegal.
- *Frost:* I'm sorry?
- *Nixon:* That's what I believe... But I realize no one else shares that view.
- *Frost:* So, in that case, will you accept, then, to clear the air once and for all, that you were part of a cover-up and that you did break the law?

⁶ John Daniel Ehrlichman was counsel and Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs under President Richard Nixon. He was a key figure in events leading to the Watergate first break-in and the ensuing Watergate scandal, for which he was convicted of conspiracy, obstruction of justice and perjury. He served a year and a half in prison for his crimes. Ehrlichman created "The Plumbers", the group at the centre of the Watergate scandal, whose task was to stop the leaking of classified information to the news media.

01:39:41

- *Nixon:* What'd you do? Throw in the towel, Jack? Did you take pity on me?
- *Brennan:* Sir, I just felt that if you were going to make some kind of emotional disclosure, that we should just take a moment to think it through, sketch it out. I just want to impress upon you how crucially important this moment is and how many potentially devastating consequences unplanned emotional disclosures could have.
- *Nixon:* I know. But to go on and carry on denying it all...I appreciate the gesture.

01:44:40

- But, yes, I will admit there were times I did not fully meet that responsibility and I was involved in a cover-up, as you call it. And for all those mistakes I have a very deep regret. No one can know what it's like to resign the presidency. Now, if you want me to get down on the floor and grovel...No! Never! I still insist they were mistakes of the heart. They were not mistakes of the head. But they were my mistakes. I don't blame anybody. I brought myself down.
- *Frost:* And the American people?
- *Nixon:* I let them down. I let down my friends. I let down the country. And worst of all, I let down our system of government. I let the American people down, and I'm gonna have to carry that burden with me for the rest of my life. My political life is over.

01:48:24

- *Reston:* But that was before I really understood the reductive power of the close-up. Because David had succeeded on that final day in getting, for a fleeting moment, what no investigative journalist, no state prosecutor, no judiciary committee or political enemy had managed to get. Richard Nixon's face, swollen and ravaged by loneliness, self-loathing and defeat.

01:53:42

- *Nixon:* You got no idea how fortunate that makes you. You know? Liking people, and being liked. Having that facility, that lightness, that charm. I don't have it. I never did. It kind of makes you wonder why I chose a life that hinged on being liked. I'm better suited to a life of thought, debate, intellectual

discipline. Maybe we got it wrong. Maybe you should have been a politician and I the rigorous interviewer.

Active Vocabulary

- controversial day in politics
- to bug the office
- re-election campaign committee
- to start the trial
- to break into the office
- to testify
- cover-up
- the misuse/abuse of power
- impeachment of the president
- to resign from office
- admission of guilt
- to be abhorrent to sb.
- quitter
- political convictions
- talk show host
- to have a bold idea for an interview
- an extensive look-back over one's life
- no-holds-barred confession
- farewell speech
- to give sb. a full, free and absolute pardon
- to commit the greatest felony
- to stand trial for sth.
- to indicate a two-to-one disapproval of sth.
- crooked deal
- to give testimony in the trial
- to put the record straight
- to achieve great fame
- to admit failure
- effeminate
- total outsider
- compelling and controversial politician

- to feel sympathy for sb.
- stonewalling
- wiretapping
- to anticipate sb.'s response
- to ambush sb.
- to take sb. by surprise
- an umbrella term for everything negative
- to cover a lot of subjects in a great deal of detail
- to step down
- to switch to another topic
- to betray sb.
- to pull the troops out of the country
- to believe in the cause
- incursion into the country
- the casualties on both sides in the war
- to distract a talk
- to do a profile on sb.
- to look down on sb.
- fierce adversary
- to obstruct justice
- to escape criminal prosecution
- transcript of a tape
- to quote sb. out of context
- to be in the greater interests of the nation
- to sabotage the interview
- to throw in the towel
- to make some kind of emotional disclosure
- devastating consequences
- to call sth. a snafu
- to be haunted by sb.
- to let sb. down
- to carry the burden
- to be ravaged by defeat
- self-loathing
- worthy opponent
- to make a fortune from sth.
- to achieve rehabilitation

- to crave desperately for sth.
- lasting legacy
- political wrongdoing

Forrest Gump (1994)

Director: Robert Zemeckis

Stars: Tom Hanks, Robin Wright, Gary Sinise

Based on the novel "Forrest Gump" by Winston Groom

DISCUSSION

Historical background

1. Which changes did America undergo from the 1960s to the 1980s in its social, cultural, and political life?
2. How did the hippie movement and the counterculture develop in the US in the 1960s?
3. What do you know about the following American presidents mentioned in the film: John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan?
4. What is segregation and which political event is the name of George Wallace, Governor of Alabama, associated with?
5. When was the Vietnam War and how did it affect the US?
6. What is ping-pong diplomacy?
7. What do you know about the Watergate scandal?

The characters in the film

Forrest Gump

1. Where does his name come from? What does it signify?
2. Which role did his mother play in his life?
3. What made him different from all other people? Was he aware of being different?
4. Which traits of character distinguish him from others?
5. How did he treat people around him? Why did they feel at ease in his company?
6. Why did Jenny, Bubba, and Lieutenant Dan become his dear friends?
7. Why was he so talented in various kinds of sport?

8. How did he become such a successful businessman? Did he care about his career and money?
9. Why did he make a good husband and father?

Jenny

1. How did she become friends with Forrest?
2. How did life “cheat” her?
3. Is it possible to explain her behaviour towards Forrest?
4. Why did she make up her mind to marry Forrest in the end? Did she really love him?

Bubba

1. Why did they hit it off with Forrest? What united them?
2. What did “shrimp business” mean to him?
3. How did life “cheat” him?

Lieutenant Dan

1. Why did Forrest come to like him at once?
2. How did he encourage his soldiers during the Vietnam War?
3. How did life “cheat” him? Did he finally “make peace with God”?
4. How did Forrest help him return to normal life?

Agree or disagree with the statements about the film:

1. “I’ve never met anyone like Forrest Gump in a movie before, and for that matter I’ve never seen a movie quite like *Forrest Gump*. Any attempt to describe him will risk making the movie seem more conventional than it is, but let me try. It’s a comedy, I guess. Or maybe a drama. Or a dream. The screenplay by Eric Roth has the complexity of modern fiction...The performance is a breathtaking balancing act between comedy and sadness, in a story rich in big laughs and quiet truths...What a magical movie.” — Roger Ebert of *the Chicago Sun-Times*
2. “I don’t want to sound like a bad version of ‘the child within’. But the childlike innocence of Forrest Gump is what we all once had. It’s an emotional journey. You laugh and cry. It does what movies are supposed to do: make you feel alive.” — Producer Wendy Finerman

3. "...all over the political map, people have been calling Forrest their own. But, Forrest Gump isn't about politics or conservative values. It's about humanity, it's about respect, tolerance and unconditional love." — Producer Steve Tisch

General questions and symbolism

1. Which eternal questions does the film raise?
2. How is the idea of destiny expressed in the film?
3. How do understand the key phrase of the film: "Life is a box of chocolates... You never know what you're going to get"?
4. What role does the feather play in the film? Do you agree with the way Tom Hanks interprets it: "Our destiny is only defined by how we deal with the chance elements to our life and that's kind of the embodiment of the feather as it comes in. Here is this thing that can land anywhere and that it lands at your feet. It has theological implications that are really huge."
5. What does ping pong and running symbolise in the film?
6. What is the significance of the smiley face and who really invented it?

Comment on the following scenes in the film:

00:03:33

- *Forrest Gump*: My mama always said life was like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're going to get.

00:04:06

- *Forrest Gump*: Mama always said there's an awful lot you can tell about a person by their shoes. Where they're going, where they've been. I've worn lots of shoes.

00:05:06

- *Doctor*: His legs are strong, Mrs. Gump, as strong as I've ever seen. But his back's as crooked as a politician.

00:05:23

- *Forrest Gump*: Mama named me after the great Civil War hero General Nathan Bedford Forrest. She said we were related to him in some way. What he did

was, he started up this club called the Ku Klux Klan. They'd all dress up in their robes and their bedsheets and act like a bunch of ghosts or spooks or something. They'd even put bedsheets on their horses and ride around. And, anyway, that's how I got my name... Forrest Gump. Mama said the Forrest part was to remind me that sometimes we all do things that, well, that just don't make no sense.

00:06:23

- *Forrest Gump's mother*: Don't ever let anybody tell you they're better than you, Forrest. If God intended everybody to be the same, he'd have given us all braces on our legs.

00:11:58

- *Forrest Gump*: Some years later, that handsome young man who they called the King, well, he sung too many songs, had himself a heart attack or something. It must be hard being a king.

00:14:22

- *Jenny*: Are you stupid or something?
- *Forrest Gump*: Mama says, "Stupid is as stupid does."

00:29:41

- *Forrest Gump*: President Kennedy met with the collegiate all-American football team at the Oval Office today. Some time later, for no particular reason somebody shot that nice young president when he was riding in his car. And a few years after that, somebody shot his little brother, too, only he was in a hotel kitchen. Must be hard being brothers.

00:26:58

- *Jenny*: Do you ever dream, Forrest...about who you're going to be?
- *Forrest Gump*: Who I'm going to be?
- *Jenny*: Yeah.
- *Forrest Gump*: Aren't I going to be me?
- *Jenny*: You'll always be you, just another kind of you.

00:33:18

- *Drill Sergeant*: Gump! What's your sole purpose in this army?
- *Forrest Gump*: To do whatever you tell me, Drill Sergeant!
- *Drill Sergeant*: God damn it, Gump, you're a goddamn genius. That's the most outstanding answer I've ever heard. You must have a goddamn I.Q. Of 160. You are goddamn gifted, Private Gump.

00:43:52

- *Lieutenant Dan*: Two standing orders in this platoon. One — take care of your feet, two — try not to do anything stupid, like getting yourself killed.

00:59:56

- *Lieutenant Dan*: Now...you listen to me. We all have a destiny. Nothing just happens. It's all part of a plan! I should have died out there with my men, but now... I'm nothing but a goddamn cripple, a legless freak! Look. Look! Look at me! You see that? Do you know what it's like not to be able to use your legs?
- *Forrest Gump*: Y-Y-Yes, sir, I do.
- *Lieutenant Dan*: Did you hear what I said? You cheated me! I had a destiny. I was supposed to die in the field with honour! That was my destiny, and you...cheated me out of it! I had a destiny. You understand what I'm saying, Gump? This wasn't supposed to happen...Not to me. I had a destiny. I was Lieutenant Dan Taylor.
- *Forrest Gump*: Y-You still Lieutenant Dan.
- *Lieutenant Dan*: Look at me. What am I going to do now?

01:15:43

- *Lieutenant Dan*: They gave you, an imbecile, a moron who goes on television and makes a fool out of himself in front of the whole damn country, the Congressional Medal of Honour. Well... that...that's just perfect!

01:17:17

- *Lieutenant Dan*: Have you found Jesus yet, Gump?
- *Forrest Gump*: I didn't know I was supposed to be looking for Him, sir.
- *Lieutenant Dan*: That's all these cripples down at the V. A...That's all they ever talk about. Jesus this and Jesus that. Ha. Have I... found Jesus? They even

had a priest come and talk to me. He said God is listening, but I have to help myself. Now, if I accept Jesus into my heart, I'll get to walk beside Him in the kingdom of heaven. Well... kiss my crippled ass. What a crock of shit.

- *Forrest Gump*: I'm going to heaven, Lieutenant Dan.
- *Lieutenant Dan*: Oh?

01:37:32

- *Lieutenant Dan*: Forrest, I never thanked you for saving my life.
- *Forrest Gump*: He never actually said so, but I think he made his peace with God.

01:39:57

- *Forrest Gump*: Why are you dying, Mama?
- *Forrest Gump's mother*: It's my time. It's just my time. Oh, now...don't you be afraid, sweetheart. Death is just a part of life. Something we're all destined to do. I didn't know it, but I was destined to be your mama. I did the best I could.
- *Forrest Gump*: You did good.
- *Forrest Gump's mother*: Well... I happen to believe you make your own destiny. You have to do the best with what God gave you.
- *Forrest Gump*: What's my destiny, Mama?
- *Forrest Gump's mother*: You're going to have to figure that out for yourself. Life is a box of chocolates, Forrest. You never know what you're going to get.
- *Forrest Gump*: Mama always had a way of explaining things so I could understand them.

01:48:40

- *Forrest Gump*: Will you marry me? I'd make a good husband, Jenny.
- *Jenny*: You would, Forrest.
- *Forrest Gump*: But you won't marry me.
- *Jenny*: You don't want to marry me.
- *Forrest Gump*: Why don't you love me, Jenny? I'm not a smart man, but I know what love is.

01:57:22

- *Forrest Gump*: My mama always said, "You got to put the past behind you before you can move on." And I think that's what my running was all about.

01:56:22

- *Man in the street*: Whoa, man! You just ran through a big pile of dog shit!
- *Forrest Gump*: It happens.
- *Man in the street*: What, shit?
- *Forrest Gump*: Sometimes.

02:11:18

- *Forrest Gump*: Jenny...I don't know if Mama was right or if it... it's Lieutenant Dan. I don't know if we each have a destiny or if we're all just floating around accidental-like on a breeze but I think maybe it's both. Maybe both get happening at the same time.

Active Vocabulary

- crooked back/politician
- to act like a bunch of ghosts or spooks
- to make no sense
- braces on one's legs
- to let rooms out
- to attend public school
- to require a minimum I.Q. Of 80
- to be a bit on the slow side
- to be left behind
- to care about schooling
- to live out of the suitcases
- to enforce a court order
- to carry out one's threat
- to awaken sb. to the dangers of sth.
- trend toward military dictatorship
- to be desegregated
- to reach people on a personal level
- to get drafted
- sole purpose in the army
- to stick with sb.
- standing orders in the platoon

- to get it all figured out
- ambush
- to come very natural to sb.
- cripple
- to be awarded the Medal of Honour
- the armed services
- to owe sb. a debt of gratitude
- to expand one's mind
- national celebrity
- to keep one's promise
- a man of the word
- to fall victim to the hurricane
- to survive the storm
- to be inspirational
- to come up with an idea for a T-shirt
- to put the past behind you
- to be messed up
- to float around accidental-like on a breeze

Recommended Dictionaries

<http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/british/> — Cambridge Free English Dictionary and Thesaurus.

<http://www.ldoceonline.com/> — Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English.

<http://www.macmillandictionary.com/> — Macmillan Dictionary.

http://www.macmillandictionary.com/about_thesaurus.html — Free Online Thesaurus from Macmillan Dictionary.

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/> — Merriam-Webster: Dictionary and Thesaurus.

<http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/> — Oxford Learner's Dictionaries.

<http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/thesaurus/> — Thesaurus - Oxford Dictionaries.

<http://www.webster-dictionary.org/> — Webster's Online Dictionary

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ДАННОЕ ИЗДАНИЕ ПРЕДНАЗНАЧЕНО ИСКЛЮЧИТЕЛЬНО ДЛЯ ПУБЛИКАЦИИ НА ЭЛЕКТРОННЫХ НОСИТЕЛЯХ